

Message Text

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10
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /066 W
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P R 150412Z OCT 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2398
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12102

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJ: RUMORS ON STATUS OF FORMER MAO BODYGUARD WANG TUNG-HSING

REF: A. PEKING 2090, B. HONG KONG 11959

1. HONG KONG CHINA-WATCHER LEO GOODSTADT CLAIMS THAT IN A REPORTED CONVERSATION BETWEEN LOCAL PRC CADRES, IT WAS ASSERTED THAT FORMER MAO BODYGUARD AND POLITUBRO MEMBER WANG TUNG-HSING IS NOT IN POLITICAL TROUBLE. ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONVERSATION TOLD GOODSTADT THAT THERE IS A RUMOR CIRCULATING IN LOCAL PRC CIRCLES THAT WANG WAS ASKED TO JOIN IN THE ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO THE RUMOR, WANG REPLIED: "MY DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA AND NOT JUST CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG." GOODSTADT'S INFORMANT CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS NOT SO SURPRISING, CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT WANG WAS A LONG-MARCHER. AFP (TOKYO) ON 13 OCTOBER ATTRIBUTED A SIMILAR STORY ON WANG TO WESTERN SOURCES IMPLYING THAT WANG HAD
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"THROWN IN HIS LOT WITH HUA."

2. GOODSTADT FOUND IT NOTEWORTHY, WHATEVER THE MERITS OF THE RUMOR, THAT LOCAL PRC CADRES ARE SPECULATING THAT EVEN THE LEADER OF MAO'S PRAETORIAN GUARD IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DECLINED TO CAST HIS LOT WITH THE ALLEGED "RADICAL PLOTTERS." HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE LOCAL CADRES WERE DIDCUSSING THE POLITBURO QUARTET'S ATTEMPTED COUP, AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT ARREST, AS ACCEPTED FACT.
CROSS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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